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Customer No. 01333

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Robert P. Bourdelais, et al

**MICROVOIDED LIGHT DIFFUSER
CONTAINING OPTICAL CONTACT
LAYER**

Serial No. 10/017,002

Filed December 14, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Group Art Unit: 1774

Examiner:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Deidra L. Mack
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March 2, 2002
Date

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please
amend as follows:

In the Specification

Please amend the specification beginning at page 11, line 30
through page 12, line 9 with the following:

Figure 1 illustrates a cross section of the diffuser of the invention
containing a smoothing layer on one side of the voided polymer diffuser. Light
diffuser 12 comprises polymer smoothing layer 22 and an integral air voided
polymer base. Air voids 24 are dispersed in polymer matrix 26. Smoothing layer
22 is integral to voided polymer matrix 26 and contains the smoothing layer/
voided layer interface 28.

Figure 2 illustrates a liquid crystal display device with a light
diffuser with a smoothing layer. Visible light source 18 is illuminated and light is
guided into acrylic board 2. Reflection tape 4 is used to focus light energy into